

I N Q U I R Y

In order to determine how the tape behaves on the long term, I have designed a questionnaire and sent it out to several labs. The response was 75% (1st column)

Approximately 75% returned the inquiry (see the first table).

On appendix 3 you will find an example of the inquiry.

The results are shown in the overview below.

HOSPITAL	LAB	CITY
Catharina Ziekenhuis	PAMM	Eindhoven
Medisch Centrum Haaglanden Westeinde Ziekenhuis		Den Haag
Jeroen Bosch Ziekenhuis		's Hertogenbosch
Academisch Ziekenhuis Maastricht	AZM	Maastricht
Laurentius Ziekenhuis		Roermond
Medisch Centrum Alkmaar		Alkmaar
Diagnostisch Centrum SSDZ Reinier de Graaf Groep		Delft
St. Ziekenhuis Lievensberg		Bergen op Zoom
Kennemergasthuis, Lokatie Deo	SPALK	Haarlem
Diaconessenhuis		Leiden
Rijnland Ziekenhuis		Leiderdorp
Stichting St. Antonius Ziekenhuis		Nieuwegein
Stichting Pathan	Pathan	Rotterdam
St. Elisabeth Ziekenhuis		Tilburg
A. van Leeuwenhoek Ziekenhuis	AVL	Amsterdam
Nederlands Forensisch Instituut	NFI	Rijswijk

HOSPITALS → QUESTIONS ↓	RIJNLAND	AVL	ST. ANTONIUS	LAURENTIUS
1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED WITH A COVER SLIPPER?	13 years	11 years	15 years	10 years
2. FROM WHICH SUPPLIER DO YOU PURCHASE TAPE AND HOW MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE WITH THE COVER SLIPPER?	At first 4 years from Bayer, then 9 years from Klinipath	At first 8 years from Bayer, now 3 years from Klinipath	At first 5 years from Bayer, now 10 years from Klinipath	At first from Bayer, but quickly from Klinipath
3. DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE TAPE; IF YES, AFTER HOW MANY YEARS?	Yes, with the Bayer tape	Yes, after 6/7 years	Yes, only with Bayer-tape	Yes, Bayer-tape
4. WHAT STORAGE CONDITIONS DO YOU HAVE?	At room temperature and constant conditions	At room temperature	At room temperature and constant conditions	At room temperature
5. DO AIR BUBBLES OCCUR DURING THE COVERSLIPPING PROCES?	Yes, sometimes	No	No	No
6. DID DAMAGE ON THE TAPE APPEAR WHILE STORING?	No	No	No	No
7. REMARKS OF THE HOSPITALS	None	We did our own research with the results of Klinipath-tape, which remains permanent, even under extreme circumstances. Not with Bayer-tape.	We are considering of using a cover-slipper fully again after good test results	None

HOSPITALS → QUESTIONS ↓	SPALK	NFI	ELIZABETH	LIEVENSBERG
1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED WITH A COVER SLIPPER?	11 years	10 years	12 years	12 years
2. FROM WHICH SUPPLIER DO YOU PURCHASE TAPE AND HOW MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE WITH THE COVER SLIPPER?	First from Bayer, now 7½ years from Klinipath	From Klinipath, 10 years	First 2 years from Bayer, now 10 years from Klinipath	At first 8 years from Bayer, now 6 years Klinipath
3. DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE TAPE; IF YES, AFTER HOW MANY YEARS?	Yes, with the Bayer tape	No	Yes, with the Bayer tape after 5-6 years	Yes, with the Bayer tape after 3 years
4. WHAT STORAGE CONDITIONS DO YOU HAVE?	At room temperature	At room temperature	At room temperature and constant conditions	At room temperature
5. DO AIR BUBBLES OCCUR DURING THE COVERSLIPPING PROCES?	No	Yes	Yes, little	Sometimes,/little
6. DID DAMAGE ON THE TAPE APPEARE WHILE STORING?	Yes	No	Yes, but not annoying	No
7. REMARKS OF THE HOSPITALS	None	None	Klinipath tape has not come off until now	A copy of the results please

HOSPITALS → QUESTIONS ↓	REINIER	MC ALKMAAR	PATHAN	DIACONESSEN- HUIS
1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED WITH A COVER SLIPPER?	12 years	5 years	13 years	8 years
2. FROM WHICH SUPPLIER DO YOU PURCHASE TAPE AND HOW MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE WITH THE COVER SLIPPER?	From Bayer for 6 years and from Klinipath also for 6 years	From Bayer, 5 years	12 years from Bayer and 1 year from Klinipath	From Bayer
3. DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE TAPE; IF YES, AFTER HOW MANY YEARS?	Yes, after approximately 2 years	Yes, after 3 years	Yes, after 5 years	No
4. WHAT STORAGE CONDITIONS DO YOU HAVE?	At room temperature	At room temperature	At room temperature	At room temperature and constant conditions
5. DO AIR BUBBLES OCCUR DURING THE COVERSLIPPING PROCES?	Yes	No	No	No
6. DID DAMAGE ON THE TAPE APPEARE WHILE STORING?	No	No	No	No
7. REMARKS OF THE HOSPITALS	Tape-release gets worse when drying quick with, for example, a hair dryer	No big problems but the most annoying are the brown spots after covering	Tape-release especially with the Bayer tape in the first years	None

HOSPITALS → QUESTIONS ↓	PAMM	WESTEINDE	JEROEN BOSCH	AZM
1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED WITH A COVER SLIPPER?	?	Approx. 10 years	13 years	5 years
2. FROM WHICH SUPPLIER DO YOU PURCHASE TAPE AND HOW MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE WITH THE COVER SLIPPER?	?	From Klinipath for approx. 10 years	First several years from Bayer and then from Klinipath	First 6 months from Bayer, then from Klinipath for 4½ years
3. DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE TAPE; IF YES, AFTER HOW MANY YEARS?	Approx. 4 years	?	Yes, especially before 1997	Yes, with the Bayer tape
4. WHAT STORAGE CONDITIONS DO YOU HAVE?	At room temperature and constant conditions	At room temperature and constant conditions	At room temperature	At room temperature
5. DO AIR BUBBLES OCCUR DURING THE COVERSLIPPING PROCES?	?	No	Not at histology, sometimes at thick cytological smears	Yes
6. DID DAMAGE ON THE TAPE APPEAR WHILE STORING?	No	Yes	No/hardly	No
7. REMARKS OF THE HOSPITALS	The hospital doesn't have a cover-slipper anymore, due to colour fading	Tape sometimes releases or gets damaged, but no serious problems	Stick with cover-slippers because of quick stocking, easy maintenance and controlling	None

I will discuss the average results per question.

1. On average, the laboratories work with the coverslippers for 11 years;
2. The laboratories work with the Bayer™-tape with an average of 5 years and 7 years with the Klinipath-tape and 86% works with the Klinipath-tape;
3. Tape-release has only occurred with the old tape of Bayer™ in 84% of the cases, 26% unknown (there was only 1 hospital that didn't experience this). The tape releases after approx. 4/5 years;
4. It seems important that the slides are not stored at a too high temperature;
5. Air bubbles occur on occasion, mostly when the material is thick or when the settings of the machine are changed;
6. On occasion slight damage appears, especially while archiving, but not harmful while checking;
7. The medium always is xylene, which works excellent;
8. Remarks of the hospitals:
 - a. almost 84% of the hospitals that responded, changed to the Klinipath-tape;
 - b. the Klinipath-tape sticks for 10 years already and hasn't come off anywhere to this date;
 - c. there have been laboratories who stopped using cover-slippers, of which several are working or will be working with cover-slippers again.

My hypothesis is that the releasing of the tape has something to do with the difference in the expansion quotient between the glass and the tape. Especially when the slides aren't stocked at a constant low temperature.